

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-56 and add the following new claims:

1-56. (Canceled)

57. (New) A video program production system for use in producing a video program, comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals communicable with the composition table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information describing successive tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals for viewing at each terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus,

whereby the display at a terminal of said end of task data in said composition table data instructs a group to perform the next successive task following the task that has been completed.

58. (New) A video program production system for use in producing a video program , comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals communicable with the composition table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information describing audio and video (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program,

an A/V database for storing audio and video information for said video program,

said composition table data including links to said audio and video information in said A/V database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminals for viewing at each terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means, and for displaying said audio and video information when a link thereto in said composition table data is selected,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus.

59. (New) A video program production system for use in producing a video program, comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals communicable with the composition table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information describing successive tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program, said composition table data further containing updateable items, with each operating group having authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updateable items, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals for viewing at each terminal, and for processing said certain predetermined updateable items, input from the terminals of those authorized operating groups, to be added to the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means,

access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table data only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group,

input information generating means for generating updatable items to be input to said composition table, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the updatable items to the composition table providing apparatus.

60. (New) A video program production system for use in producing a video program , comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals communicable with the composition table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing updatable composition table data containing information describing audio and video (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program,

an A/V database for storing audio and video information for said video program,

said composition table data including links to said audio and video information in said A/V database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals for viewing at each terminal, and for updating said composition table data with information input from at least some of the terminals; and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means, and

retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table data is selected,

and wherein the terminal used by an edit operating group includes means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with said information in said displayed composition table data describing said editing tasks, thereby producing edited video information,

input information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table, and

transmitting means for transmitting the edit information to the composition table providing apparatus for updating said composition table data.

61. (New) A terminal for use by a respective operating group in a video program production system to communicate with a composition table providing apparatus via a network, wherein different groups communicate with said composition table providing apparatus and perform successive operations to produce said video program, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing information describing successive tasks to be performed by said different operating groups required for the production of said video program,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by said respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus,

whereby the display at a terminal of said end of task data in said composition table instructs a group to perform the next successive task following the task that has been completed.

62. (New) A terminal for use by a respective operating group in a video program production system to communicate with a composition table providing apparatus via a network, wherein different groups communicate with said composition table providing apparatus and perform successive operations to produce said video program, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing information describing successive tasks to be performed by said different operating groups required for the production of said video program, said composition table further containing updatable items, with each operating group having authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table,

access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group,

input information generating means for generating updatable items to be input to said composition table, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the updatable items to the composition table providing apparatus.

63. (New) A terminal for use by an edit operating group in a video program production system to communicate with a composition table providing apparatus and with an audio/video (A/V) database, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing information describing (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of a video program, said composition table further containing links to audio and video information in said A/V database,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table,

retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table is selected,

means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with said information in said displayed composition table describing said editing tasks, thereby producing edited video information,

edit information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table, and

transmitting means for transmitting the edit information to the composition table
providing apparatus for updating said composition table.